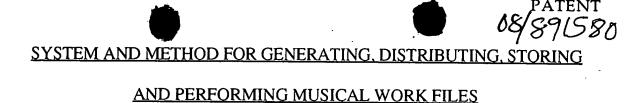
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A composition and playback system includes a sound bank containing at least one instrument sound, an input device for receiving music control signals, a sequencer coupled to the input device for storing the music control signals, and a work manager coupled to the sound bank and to the sequencer for generating a musical work file containing the music control signals and at least a portion of the sound bank. The system further includes a synthesizer engine coupled to the input device for processing the music control signals based on the instrument sounds contained in the sound bank, a mixer coupled to the synthesizer engine for mixing effects with the processed music control signals, and a speaker system coupled to the mixer for converting the mixed music control signals to sound.